Colchester Public Schools

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Dear Students and Families,

We trust this letter finds you and your family well and enjoying the best that summer has to offer. As parents, we understand how valuable this time can be for students of all ages. For our youngest learners, summer is a wonderful opportunity for play and exploration. As children grow older, it can become a time for overnight camps, visits with relatives, and personal discovery. For high school students, summer often provides a chance to gain work experience and save for college. Regardless of how you choose to spend this season, we hope you are staying healthy, safe, and happy.

Last summer, we introduced the mantra of Pride and Purpose. While this phrase is often associated with our working groups that identified strategies for district growth, it represents so much more. Pride and Purpose reflects our identity, the decisions we make, and the actions we take every day to support our students and community.

Looking back on the 2023-2024 academic year, we are proud of our achievements, including:

- The continued growth in literacy and mathematics at CES, driven by the dedication of our teachers and their work with the Continental Math League.
- The successful implementation of safety officers in each school, along with CSTAG threat assessment training for our staff.
- The significant progress made by our high-needs populations on standardized assessments.
- WJ's recognition from the state of Connecticut as Runner-Up in the Red, White, and Blue Outstanding School's program.
- Bacon Academy's outstanding accomplishments, including a state championship in girls' soccer and First Robotics, with one student-athlete earning All-American honors.
- 24 graduates will attend UCONN this fall and others will be enrolling at West Point, Penn State, and schools across New England.

This summer, our curriculum development and professional development initiatives are focused on enhancing the educational experience for our students and schools. Meanwhile, our facilities team has been diligently engaged in deep cleaning and painting projects across each building. We are also thrilled to announce the recent HVAC grant and state funding awarded to Bacon Academy for the first phase of a flooring project. New carpeting is expected to be installed on the main floor in time for the start of the school year, while the

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HVAC project at Bacon will take approximately 12 to 14 months to complete. Unfortunately, students will likely experience a few more uncomfortable weather days this year, but air conditioning is on the horizon.

We also want to highlight our 24-25 district calendar found here, which provides differentiation for elementary and secondary parent-teacher conferences as well as the early release/late arrival professional development schedule to best suit student and learning community needs.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we encourage you to embrace it with enthusiasm and pride—not only in Colchester Public Schools but in the accomplishments of our students and the community itself. We also want to thank students and families for your support of our schools and staff. Our educators work hard, and many have served the Colchester Schools for a long time. Your kindness and notes of gratitude make a difference.

Best wishes for a great school year.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Sullivan, III

Superintendent

Jessica L. Kuckel

Assistant Superintendent